Past Pursuits

A Newsletter of the Special Collections Division Akron-Summit County Public Library

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Tommy Weakland delivered the Akron Beacon Journal *by sled dogs in February 1958. From the Akron Beacon Journal Photograph Archives,* Summit Memory.

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Akron Beacon Journal Collection on Summit Memory

by Judy James, Division Manager

How did local newsboys deliver papers in the 1950s? What did the Ascot Park racetrack look like in 1973? These and many more images chronicling Summit County's history and its changing landscape can be found in the rich photo "morgue" at the *Akron Beacon Journal.*

In operation since 1839, the *Akron Beacon Journal* (ABJ) and its predecessor papers have told the story of our community from canal days until the present. During that time, the paper has amassed an enormous collection of photographs estimated at half a million and possibly closer to one million, representing one of the largest collections of its kind. It is an unparalleled source of photographic evidence of the historical, cultural, and industrial changes that have shaped Akron and the surrounding region.

Thanks to a unique collaboration between the Library and the ABJ, 5,000 images from our hometown newspaper will soon be available to view on Summit Memory, our online "scrapbook" of Summit County history.

The seeds for this project were sown more than three years ago at a meeting of Library and ABJ officials with an agreement to collaborate on making this vast collection of our visual history available to the public. There were many considerations for a project of this magnitude. What should we select for digitization? What topics should we focus on? What do readers and library customers request most often? How will we find the time and resources to do this? Although our original plan was to digitize 20,000 images over a three-year period, we decided that a smaller project would be more prudent and attainable. In September, with funds from Taylor Lerch, the Library's fund earmarked for historical projects, Special Collections

began selecting photographs for this pilot project. On most days, a Special Collections librarian may be found at the *Akron Beacon Journal* library systematically pulling and viewing photos for possible inclusion in Summit Memory. As the photos are selected, they are placed in new archival folders until they are scanned by ScanWorks, a local document management company that has digitized records for the Summit County Probate Court as well as local companies and individuals. The front and back of each photo is carefully scanned, the digital files are sent to us, and the photos returned to the ABJ. The last step involves entering the images and descriptions into a database and publishing them on Summit Memory.

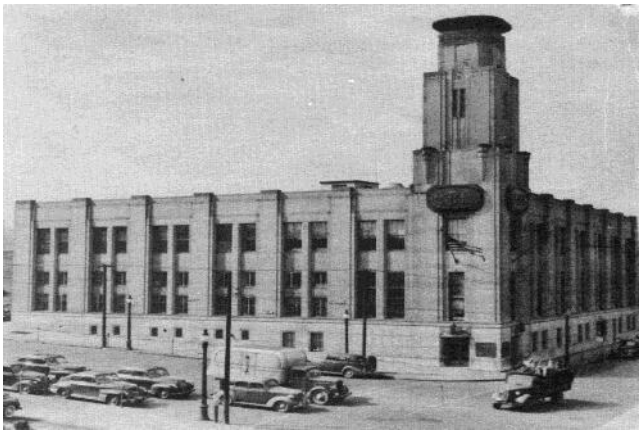
Although we are starting with 5,000 images—just a fraction of the entire collection—our hope is to sustain the project beyond 2015. ScanWorks owner Deb Monaco shares our commitment to the project: *We strongly believe in the value of preserving important records, particularly in a situation like this where the Beacon Journal photographs are an irreplaceable part of local history. By scanning these photographs into digital format, we are not only preserving them, but we are also helping to make them accessible for public use.*

We are grateful to the *Akron Beacon Journal* for their willingness to partner with us in making these remarkable images accessible to our local and global communities. Be sure to visit Summit Memory often as we continue to add photographs and documents that chronicle our community's rich history.

History of the *Akron Beacon Journal*

by Mary Plazo, Librarian

Hiram Bowen was a local printer's apprentice during the early 1830s, before venturing into the newspaper business on his own. There were several small publications around Summit County during this time. One was *The American Balance,* a Whig newspaper published by Ozias Bowen, Hiram's uncle, in the town of Middlebury three miles east of Akron. This newspaper lasted only five months before it became involved in financial problems by selling too many subscriptions on credit. It was finally shut down when the Panic of 1837 hit. Hiram Bowen had worked the hand-operated press that printed *The American Balance,* and in 1838, he bought a half-interest in the paper just before its last edition was published.



The Akron Beacon Journal *building, formerly the* Akron Times-Press *building. From the booklet* Akron Beacon Journal Community Service, 1945, *Local History Collection.*

Summit County didn't exist at the time, but leaders and citizens of Akron, including Bowen, felt very strongly about forming a new county. Just before his 24th birthday on April 15, 1839, he published the first issue of the *Summit Beacon.* He wrote, "situated as we are, upon the highest summit of the Ohio Canal, we thought it not inappropriate to express it in our title. We supposed that a BEACON would be in its proper place up on the top of such a summit, in order that its light could be shed over a large extent of territory – serving as a guide to knowledge and virtue, and a warning against ignorance and vice." This publication would be the first of the longest-running newspaper in Summit County now known as the *Akron Beacon Journal*.

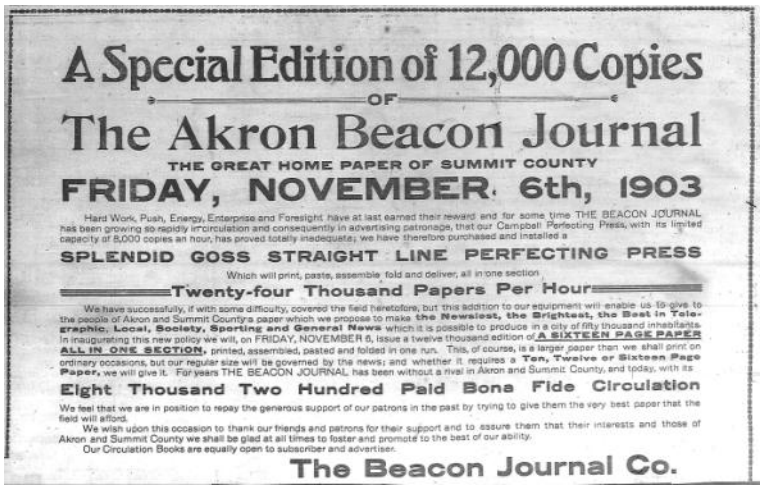
The majority of the content in the early *Beacon* covered Bowen's political views on national and international problems, as well as fiction stories and content cut and pasted from other newspapers. He was essentially writing, editing, publishing, and soliciting advertising for his own paper, which didn't leave much time to gather local news. This meant most local news was in the form of letters to the editor. But by 1860, the *Beacon* became very prosperous. In addition to the weekly editions of the paper, it also issued frequent supplements

and offered more reading material than any other Ohio weekly paper.

Samuel Lane was editor of the *Beacon* from 1861 to 1866, long before he published his book *Fifty Years and Over of Akron and Summit County*. Lane's editorials focused more on local news, which readers liked, and circulation grew. He also set a new standard as a reporter during the Civil War because of his insistence on gathering the facts about what was happening out in the field. He didn't want the *Beacon's* reporting to reflect the exaggeration and speculation that many national newspapers published. Lane also advocated for women to join the staff. He felt strongly that women could fulfill their duty as "intelligent girls" just as "the boys" had to go off to war. Editors from other surrounding area newspapers regarded it as the model county newspaper for Ohio. Eventually, Lane's history of Akron would appear in serial form in both the daily and weekly *Beacon*.

During the 1880s, the staff at the *Beacon* climbed to six reporters and 120 employees. Over 3,000 *Daily Beacons* were published every afternoon along with 2,000 *Summit County Beacons* each week. By 1888, another new press was installed and the paper was able to 12,000 papers an hour, just in time for William McKinley's rally for Benjamin Harrison. Through the late 1880s and early 1890s, the *Beacon* and its rival newspapers, which weren't making much money independently, began to merge. It wasn't until 1903 that a man named Charles Landon Knight would shape the future of the *Beacon* and change the world of newspapers forever.

A practicing lawyer in West Virginia, Knight decided to make a change from law to spend some time in the newspaper business before he came to Ohio. As an editorialist, he was never shy about opposing a political party, even his own, if he felt its actions were wrong. On November 6, 1903, he changed the newspaper's title to the *Akron Beacon Journal*. By 1906, the paper's circulation climbed to 12,000, and by 1921, it reached over 32,000. Its editorial masthead showed father and son: C. L. Knight, Publisher, and John S. Knight, Managing Editor.



A Special Edition of 12,000 Copies

OF

The Akron Beacon Journal

THE GREAT HOME PAPER OF SUMMIT COUNTY

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 6th, 1903

Hard Work, Push, Energy, Enterprise and Foresight have at last earned their reward and for some time THE BEACON JOURNAL has been growing so rapidly in circulation and consequently in advertising patronage, that our Campbell Perfecting Press, with its limited capacity of 8,000 copies an hour, has proved totally inadequate; we have therefore purchased and installed a

SPLENDID GOSS STRAIGHT LINE PERFECTING PRESS

Which will print, paste, assemble fold and deliver, all in one section

Twenty-four Thousand Papers Per Hour

We have successfully, if with some difficulty, covered the field heretofore, but this addition to our equipment will enable us to give to the people of Akron and Summit County a paper which we propose to make the Newsiest, the Brightest, the Best in Telegraphic, Local, Society, Sporting and General News which it is possible to produce in a city of fifty thousand inhabitants. In inaugurating this new policy we will, on FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 6, issue a twelve thousand edition of A SIXTEEN PAGE PAPER ALL IN ONE SECTION, printed, assembled, pasted and folded in one run. This, of course, is a larger paper than we shall print on ordinary occasions, but our regular size will be governed by the news; and whether it requires a Ten, Twelve or Sixteen Page Paper, we will give it. For years THE BEACON JOURNAL has been without a rival in Akron and Summit County, and today, with its

Eight Thousand Two Hundred Paid Bona Fide Circulation

We feel that we are in position to repay the generous support of our patrons in the past by trying to give them the very best paper that the field will afford.

We wish upon this occasion to thank our friends and patrons for their support and to assure them that their interests and those of Akron and Summit County we shall be glad at all times to foster and promote to the best of our ability.

Our Circulation Books are equally open to subscriber and advertiser.

The Beacon Journal Co.

Announcement of a special edition of the newly named Akron Beacon Journal.

The *Beacon*'s biggest rival came into play after the *Akron Press* merged with the *Akron Evening Times* to become the *Akron Times-Press* in 1925. The *Times* used the Associated Press, so John S. Knight arranged to bring it back to the *Beacon* over protest from his father. This gave it three of the four major news services operating at that time. By the start of 1928, John S. Knight had taken over all of his father's administrative duties at the paper.

In 1938, the *Times-Press* offered to buy the *Beacon*. Knight wouldn't sell. Then, turning the tables, he bought the *Times-Press* instead. Some of the *Times-Press* staffers were taken on, including Ken Nichols, whose "Town Crier" column became a feature for 40 years. Knight continued to add to the paper's output, but the building at Market and Summit streets could not support the need. The *Beacon* then moved to the *Times-Press* building at High and Exchange streets, which had equipment much more capable of turning out a paper every day of the week, including all the extras Knight added for Sundays. In 1937, before Knight acquired the *Times-Press*, he also bought several publications outside Akron. These included *The Miami Herald*, the *Detroit Free Press*, and the *Chicago Daily News*. This was only the beginning of what would become the future Knight-Ridder, Inc. Knight would buy at least 22 other newspapers between 1937 and 1973.

Helen Waterhouse, left, interviews German Zeppelin pilot Antonie Strassman at the Akron Municipal Airport in 1933. From Summit Memory.

John S. Knight never saw himself as an editorialist at first. He liked reporting and thought it was what he did best. After he began to manage the paper and became the editor, he reconsidered the idea and thought it best that the readers should know his opinions. This is what started his column "The Editor's Notebook," which ran for almost 39 years and won a Pulitzer Prize in 1968. He was in the newsroom on the day he died in 1981.

The *Beacon* has had many outstanding writers and Pulitzer Prize-winning features over its long-running publication. Some consider Helen Waterhouse as the most spectacular reporter in the *Beacon*'s history. She wrote for the paper from 1925 until her death in 1965. She was the first reporter to have an exclusive interview with new First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt in 1933. She was notorious for pinning down famous people and obtaining rare interviews. Like John S. Knight, she died on the job, suffering an aneurysm while driving her car to an interview with the well-known lawyer F. Lee Bailey.

Ben Maidenburg became executive editor of the newspaper in 1948. During his career, the paper reached a peak circulation of nearly 177,000. Maidenburg earned the nickname "Mr. Akron" for his strong opinions, brash managerial style, extreme personality, and steadfast commitment to help the community. Maidenburg also became one of two full-time employees of the newly created Knight Foundation in 1950. In 1956, the *Beacon* gained its first African American member on the news staff, Albert Fitzpatrick, who rose to become the newspaper's executive editor in 1977. During his time with the paper, the *Beacon* won a Pulitzer Prize for its coverage of the 1970 shootings at Kent State University.

Responding to changing national trends, the *Beacon* changed from an afternoon publication to a morning publication in 1987. This was one of its most dramatic changes since Samuel Lane had started the daily in 1869. It actually increased newsstand sales and caused the *Beacon* to be in more direct competition with the Cleveland *Plain Dealer*. The 1990s brought a new design for the *Beacon*, new color printing presses, its first appearance on the internet, and a partnership with WEWS Channel 5 News.

Akron Beacon Journal *staff members in a temporary newsroom during building renovations, 1955. From* Summit Memory.

Even with such advancements, the *Beacon* continues to struggle with changes in management and financial issues just as other local and national newspapers. Access to information over the internet has created a highly competitive market for news in general, reducing the need for the local newspaper. Since 2000, the *Akron Beacon Journal* has come to see the last issue published of the long time supplement *Beacon Magazine*, many employee layoffs, and the sale of the parent company, Knight Ridder. Now more than ever, as we witness newspapers disappearing and facing an uncertain future, let us appreciate the art deco-style clock on top of the old *Times-Press* building and reflect on the hours of hard work it has taken to bring us the news for 175 years.

Fran Murphey as a cub reporter in 1947. Photo courtesy of the Akron Beacon Journal.

Getting to Know...Fran Murphey

by Cheri Goldner, Librarian

Born December 24, 1922 in Macedonia, Ohio to Philip A. and Marie L. (Thompson) Murphey, Frances Burke Murphey was known to her *Akron Beacon Journal* colleagues and readers as "Miss Murphey" or "Fran." Fran was a colorful character who worked for the *Beacon* for 54 years, so the newspaper holds not only thousands of articles *by* her, but also many *about* her.

Reporting was in Fran's blood. Her mother Marie contributed to the *Northfield News* and *Hudson Times* weekly newspapers and was a correspondent for the *Akron Times Press*, which merged with the *Akron Beacon Journal* in 1938. While in junior high, Fran attended meetings with Marie and helped her tally election results late into the night for reporting the next morning. In high school, Fran began contributing her own work to the *Northfield News* and *Hudson Times*. In a scrapbook of Fran's writings held by Special Collections, she writes of her work for the former: "No pay but lots of experience and a little (very little) glory."

Fran graduated from Hudson High School in 1940. The *Akron Beacon Journal* hired her on January 29, 1943 as a part-time, temporary replacement for men in the military. She signed a contract agreeing to give up her job if a man returning from World War II wanted it, but she never had to do this. She graduated from the School of Journalism at Kent State University in 1945.

She was a prolific writer. Co-worker Dale Allen counted her articles published 1985-1991 at 2,902, or 414 per year. A few years before her retirement, the *Beacon* figured that she had written more than thirty million words and taken more than 40,000 photos. While most columns go on vacation when the columnist does, Fran was known to prepare two weeks of columns in advance so readers wouldn't miss her while she was gone.

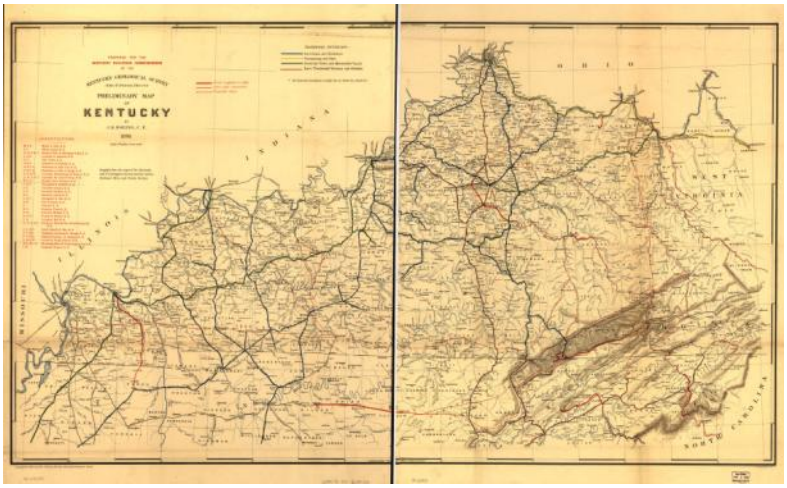
Fran had a large personality to match her large volume of work. Newspaper articles are full of references to her work habits, hobbies and wardrobe of choice—bib overalls. Around the *Beacon*, Fran was known for her cluttered office, for breaking from her long hours by napping on a couch in the women's restroom under a blanket of newspapers, and for her swearing. She frequently told co-workers to "go to hell," an expression she used with affection. "When I end up there, I want my friends there," she said.

She was thorough in her research and reporting and expected the same of her colleagues. She was a champion of everyday folks, reporting events such as retirements, promotions, outings, and anniversaries, most notably in her column "Good Afternoon." She treated her stories with the same care as those that appeared on the first page, and readers adored her for it.

Fran was as well known for her hobbies as she was for her work habits. She traveled widely and loved to collect postcards, mailing them home to friends and often asking for them back for her collection. By 1985, her collection included more than 200,000 postcards. Another interest was outhouses. She gave many slide presentations on the vanishing outhouse and shared her collection of memorabilia at community events.

Prior to Fran's retirement in July 1996, the *Beacon Journal* and the Kent State University School of Journalism and Mass Communication threw a party at the Civic Theatre. Hundreds of readers, friends and co-workers attended "A Fran Farewell" to recall her career and wish her well. Fran and others on the program entered the stage by coming through an outhouse, and many speakers wore bib overalls in her honor. More than $14,000 in proceeds from the event went to the Frances B. Murphey Scholarship Fund at the School of Journalism. Fran freelanced for the *Beacon* after retiring, writing a weekend travel column.

Fran died at age 75 on November 9, 1998, after battling liver cancer. A memorial service was held in Boston Heights Village Hall and contributions were given to the quilting group of the Fairview Cemetery Association, to which both she and her mother belonged. While the group talked of putting a bench in her honor in the Fairview Cemetery, a larger memorial was dedicated nearby. The Ohio Department of Transportation dedicated the rest area on I-77 just south of I-271 to Fran in December 1998. It was a fitting tribute to a woman known for her love of outhouses.



Preliminary map of Kentucky, 1891, prepared for the Kentucky railroad commissioners by the Kentucky Geological Survey, John R. Procter, Director. From the Library of Congress.

Kentucky Online Resources

by Iris Bolar, Librarian

Many family historians who visit Special Collections have roots in our neighboring state to the south. Kentucky offers many free internet resources of interest to our researchers.

One of the most important resources for genealogists is the Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives. Their Electronic Records Archives includes Confederate Pensions (1912-1946), which provided aid to disabled or indigent veterans and their widows. This collection can be browsed or searched. Information on the applications includes applicant's name, address, age, military service history, superior officer's name, statements of witnesses, and verifications by county judges. Letters, marriage records, and other supporting documents are also sometimes included. The pension application may be the only surviving record of a Confederate soldier's military service.

The Kentucky Historical Society (KHS) has digital collections that include maps and atlases from the 1700s to the present, nearly 9,000 oral history interviews, a collection of Ohio River photographs and interviews, and many other collections. For those wanting a glimpse of artifacts from the past, KHS also has an online object catalog which provides images of many of its museum's holdings. Here you can browse or search through items such as clothing, fine china, military artifacts, portrait paintings, furniture, and political buttons. In addition, KHS provides a free digital version of its publication *Kentucky Ancestors*, which covers a wide range of topics for genealogists of all levels.

A visit to the Land Office of the Kentucky Secretary of State leads to several useful databases. The Revolutionary War Warrants Database contains over 4,000 bounty land warrants issued by Virginia to Revolutionary War veterans in payment for military service. Search by veteran's name, warrant number, or the immediate assignee for instances when the veteran sold his warrant. An overview of these records, information on the Revolutionary War Military District, and allotments are also included. Revolutionary War

veterans occupied the Jackson Purchase area before the 1818 treaty between the United States and the Chickasaw Indian Nation, which expanded Kentucky's western territory by approximately 2,000 square miles. West of Tennessee River Military Patents contains 242 patents authorized prior to a 1792 military survey.

The Land Office also includes non-military land records such as West of Tennessee River Non-Military Patents with over 9,000 patents. The Jackson Purchase Land Locator is a tool that researchers may find helpful in researching these patents. County Court Orders is the largest in the patent series, containing over 70,000 land patents since 1835. Other land resources include Early Certificates of Settlement and Preemption Warrants in Kentucky County, Virginia, Virginia Treasury Warrants, Lincoln County Entries, and wills found in the patent files of applicants whose heirs sought to establish claims to unfinished patents.

The University of Kentucky (UK) is home to several online collections. The Kentucky Digital Library contains books, images, maps, historic newspapers, and oral histories. Documents of individuals and some families are among the papers in the collections. More oral histories can be found through the UK's Louie B. Nunn Center for Oral History, which includes over 8,000 interviews on various subjects ranging from Kentucky life to the horse industry. The Notable Kentucky African Americans Database provides descriptive entries with links to additional information. The Kentucky Edition (part of the National Digital Newspaper Program) serves as a finding aid to Kentucky's digitized and microfilmed newspaper collections.

Researchers won't want to miss FamilySearch's growing Kentucky Indexed Historical Records, including vital and probate records. Another notable website is The Kentucky National Guard History eMuseum, which maintains In the Line of Duty, a list of National Guardsmen who perished during their service. Finally, the Kentucky Genealogical Society provides a surname research list with county and year ranges being researched and links to contact those researching the name.

Summit Memory Update: Library History Collection

The Library History Collection, coming soon to Summit Memory, includes photographs and documents from a much larger physical collection of the same name held by the Special Collections Division. The collection documents the development of library services in the Akron and Summit County area, from its beginnings in 1874 within the Masonic Temple at the corner of Mill and Howard Streets to the multi-agency system that exists today. This collection was contributed by the Akron-Summit County Public Library.

Ohio Death Certificates 1954-1963

Ohio death certificates for 1954-1963 have been transferred from the Ohio Department of Health to Ohio History Connection (formerly The Ohio Historical Society). An online name index and details for ordering copies can be found on the Ohio History Connection's Ohio Public Records Index page. Copies cost $7 per certificate. Ohio residents pay 7.5% sales tax. For more information, contact Ohio History Connection.

Ohio death certificates for December 20, 1908 through 1953 have been digitized and are available for free (with free registration) at FamilySearch. The Special Collections Division also has December 20, 1908 through 1953 on microfilm.

Preservation Tip: Digitization

by Rebecca Larson-Troyer, Librarian

If cold days have you looking for a winter project, consider digitizing your family photographs and records. Creating a digital copy of originals can prevent the need to handle items repeatedly, limiting the chances for added wear and tear and potential accidents. While care of the original is still of great importance, a digital file provides the peace of mind that comes with knowing a copy is available should something unforeseen happen to the original.

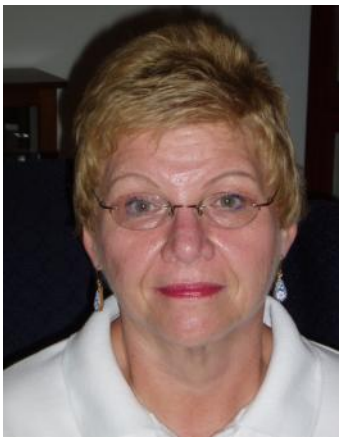
For most projects, a simple flatbed scanner is sufficient. Scan photographs in full color at a high resolution (300-600 ppi is recommended) and documents at a slightly lower resolution (300-400 ppi). Keep in mind that large digital files require adequate storage space. An inexpensive external hard drive is a great option for digital image storage. Another option is cloud storage, which allows you to purchase space on someone else's servers to upload and store files remotely. Whichever method you choose, don't forget to back up photographs from your digital camera and your family history research files to ensure you don't lose these important records.

Once you've made digital scans, create prints of photographs and documents for use and display. Store original items in a cool, dry (but not too dry) and pest-free area of the home. While digitization is no substitute for the care of our family treasures, it can go a long way in ensuring their availability for future generations.

For more information, see the following resources:

Digitizing Your Family History: Easy Methods for Preserving Your Heirloom Documents, Photos, Home Movies and More in a Digital Format, by Rhonda R. McClure

Archive Photography: How to Photograph Oversize Photos, Curled Documents, and Heirloom Treasures, by Gary W. Clark



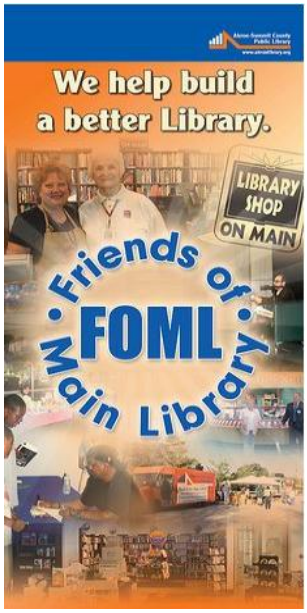
Save the Date: Nancy Ottman to Speak on German Genealogy

A longtime member of the Ohio Chapter of Palatines to America (PalAm), Nancy has been researching for over twenty years and has presented at various genealogy organizations and societies across Ohio. On Saturday, May 2, 2015, she will present two lectures at Main Library:

Beginning German Genealogy
How to collect information on your family including what to ask, where to look for confirmation, and how to record the information. Naming practices and the difference between primary and secondary sources will also be reviewed. The focus will be on German genealogy, but the basic concepts apply to all ethnic families.

The 19th Century German Traveler
Follow along with a traveler's journey including how he decides to leave Germany, what he takes with him, and what happens on his voyage to America.

The program will begin at 10:30 am and end at 12:45 pm. To register, call Special Collections at 330-643-9030 or email us at speccollections@akronlibrary.org.

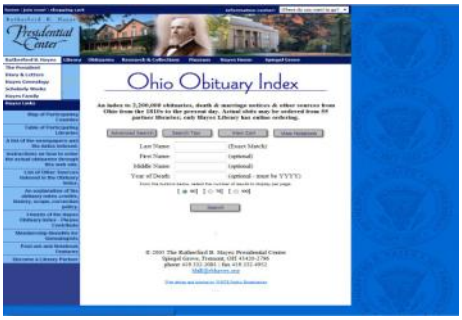


Volunteer Opportunities: Friends of Main Library and Ohio Obituary Index

Do you know about the Friends of Main Library (FOML)? The Friends give much-needed practical support to the Library by raising money for programs and other activities, primarily through sales at the Library Shop on Main. The Library Shop is next to the Main Street entrance and is open seven days a week, staffed by dedicated volunteers who like working with books and care about the Library. The shop sells books (print and audio), music, and movies that have been withdrawn from the Library's collection or donated by patrons.

As with many support groups, there are many more members who donate money rather than time. Several active volunteers for the Friends have reached the "snowbird" stage and are away for several months in the winter, while others have moved on. FOML is asking for help from those able to give some time, either in the Library Shop or behind the scenes.

If you enjoy the Library and all of the free programs it has to offer, giving as little as two or three hours a month can be a tremendous help to keep it thriving. Please consider being an active Friend today. To find out more about becoming a volunteer or joining FOML, visit the Library Shop on Main's website.



Our progress continues on the Ohio Obituary Index, administered by the Rutherford B. Hayes Presidential Center Library. This index contains millions of entries for Ohio obituaries contributed by 75 partner libraries and associated volunteers. Akron-Summit County Public Library became a partner library in January 2013. Since then, Special Collections staff and a small group of energetic volunteers have entered over 418,000 records from the historic and current *Akron Beacon Journal*.

Our goal is to index the entire *Akron Beacon Journal* series from 1841 to the present. Once this is done, we will continue to input current obituaries on a daily basis. Can you help us reach our goal? Consider being part of this growing statewide genealogy initiative. Basic computer skills are necessary, but training will be provided. Once trained, you can work from home. To inquire, please call 330-643-9030, and ask for Cheri.

Summit County OGS Events

For more information, see http://summitogs.org.

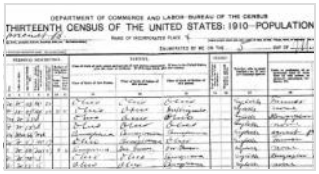
Brick Wall Breakers (Chapter Meeting)
January 17, 1:30 pm—3:30 pm
Main Library
We will discuss various methods used by others to break their brick walls. Send your suggestions for what to discuss to Marilyn Gill at marilynagill@gmail.com. Put "Brick Wall" in the subject line. We will also have a swap at this meeting. Bring genealogy magazines, books, or other items that someone else may use.

Special Collections Main Library Class Schedule

The Special Collections Division offers several recurring genealogy classes to help you with your family research. All classes are free of charge and open to the general public. **Please register by calling 330-643-9030 or send an email to speccollections@akronlibrary.org.** Classes are also held at branches. Current branch class schedules are posted on the Special Collections website.

Getting Started in Family History
Join the Special Collections Division for an introduction to genealogy for new family historians. This class includes an overview of genealogical sources available at the library, suggestions for getting started and tips for organizing your research.
Saturday, January 10, 2015, 10:30 am – 12:30 pm, Meeting Room 2AB
Saturday, March 14, 2015, 10:30 am – 12:30 pm, Meeting Room 2AB

Branching Out: U.S. Vital Records and Obituaries
This class focuses on the types of genealogical information and sources researchers encounter, what to expect when working with United States vital (birth, marriage and death) records and obituaries, and basic search strategies for finding these records. Because this class will use electronic resources, basic computer skills are recommended.
Saturday, January 24, 2015, 10:30 am – 12:30 pm, Meeting Room 2AB
Saturday, March 28, 2015, 10:30 am – 12:30 pm, Meeting Room 2AB



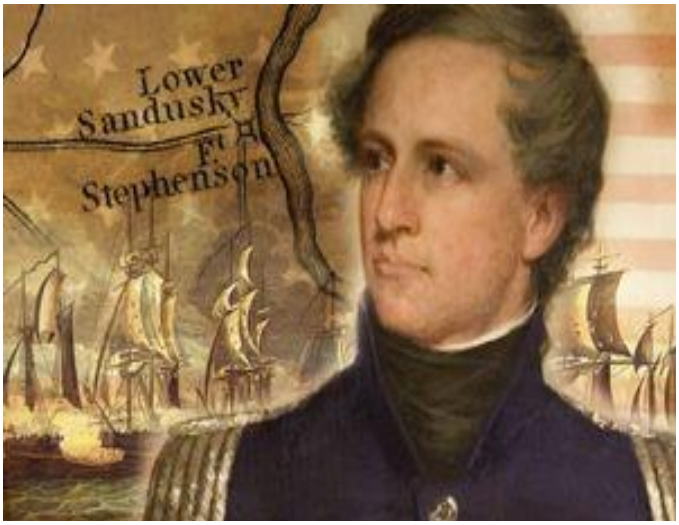
Finding Your Family in the U.S. Census
United States census records are rich sources of genealogical information. Join us to learn more about using these valuable records for your family research and how to effectively search the census using library databases. Because this class will use electronic resources, basic computer skills are recommended.
Saturday, February 7, 2015, 10:30 am – 12:30 pm, Computer Lab 2

Internet Genealogy
There are an overwhelming number of websites for genealogy research. This class will provide tips for locating online resources for family history research and allow participants some class time to explore websites. The focus will be on finding free online genealogy resources and brief introductions to the library's genealogy databases. This class does not cover Ancestry Library Edition as there is a separate class for this resource. Because this class will use electronic resources, basic computer skills are recommended.
Saturday, February 28, 2015, 10:30 – 12:30 pm, Computer Lab 2

Using Ancestry in Your Genealogy Research
With more than 9,000 databases and billions of images, Ancestry is the premier online genealogy resource–and it's available to you for free within any ASCPL location. This class will introduce you to the many features of Ancestry Library Edition and show you how to do efficient and effective searches. When possible, time for practice searching is also provided. Because this class will use electronic resources, basic computer skills are recommended.
Saturday, March 7, 2015, 10:30 am – 12:30 pm, Computer Lab 2

War of 1812 Commemorative Events

Although 2012 marked the 200th anniversary of the commencement of the War of 1812, the war did not end until 1815. Communities throughout Ohio continue to commemorate this conflict with ceremonies and remembrances. For more information about events taking place in our state, visit the Ohio War of 1812 Bicentennial Commission. For information about local events and projects, visit the William Wetmore Chapter Daughters of 1812.



The Jesse Elliott/Oliver Hazard Perry Controversy
Presented by Sharon Myers, William Wetmore Chapter, Daughters of 1812
February 17, 6:30 pm
Highland Square Branch Library

Black Sailors and Soldiers in the War of 1812
Presented by Sharon Myers, William Wetmore Chapter, Daughters of 1812
February 21, 2:00 pm
Green Branch Library

We would like to thank the following for their generous donations:

Jean Titus Compan and Edwin and Jennifer Cauffield for a diary (1881) and letter (1863) written by Mary Cauffield.

Cuyahoga Portage Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution for seven genealogy books in memory of Catherine Elizabeth Ebbert Macey and Catherine Elizabeth Macey.

Barbara Ferrell for *Index for Cecil County, Maryland, Wills and Administrations, 1674-1953.*

Jean Libby for *The Browns of Madrona* by Damon G. Nalty.

Russell Sibert for Summit County historical materials including photographs, documents, and correspondence.

Gerald Woodling for nine genealogy books.

Many Akron-area restaurants advertised New Year's Eve celebrations in the 1950s, including Cy's in Cuyahoga Falls. Akron Beacon Journal, *December 31, 1953.*

The Akron-Summit County Public Library
Special Collections Division
is located on the third floor
of the Main Library.

Special Collections
Akron-Summit County Public Library
60 S. High St.
Akron, Ohio 44326

330-643-9030

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